

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

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R 111715Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1366

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAREUR

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSALLANT NORFOLK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6356

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, CSCE, PARM, GE, US, GW

SUBJECT: CSCE/CBM'S: NOTIFICATION IN EAST BERLIN OF EXERCISE REFORGER

REF: A) STATE 213666; B) STATE 214149; C) BONN 14619

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY NOTE ON SUBJECT EXERCISE WAS
DELIVERED TO MFA AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 10 AFTER DELIVERY
OF FRG NOTE BY FRG REPRESENTATIVES IN EAST BERLIN.
EMBASSY NOTE WAS DELIVERED TO EBERT, SECTION LEADER IN
THE PLANNING DIVISION (CSCE AFFAIRS) WHILE FRG NOTE WAS
DELIVERED TO HEAD OF PLANNING DIVISION, BOCK. GDR
REACTION TO DELIVERY OF TWO NOTES WAS SUBSTANTIALLY
DIFFERENT: IN CASE OF US NOTE, GDR REP USED OCCASION
TO REITERATE DESIRABILITY OF BETTER US/GDR RELATIONSHIP
IN SPIRIT OF HELSINKI; FRG REPS, HOWEVER, RECEIVED
COMPLAINT FROM BOCK ABOUT "FREQUENCY AND NUMBER" OF
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NATO MILITARY EXERCISES WHICH WERE HELD IN WEST

GERMANY " NEAR THE BORDER WITH THE GDR". FRG REPS RESERVED THEIR POSITION IN COMMENTS ON BOCK'S STATEMENT TO THEM IN CASE FRG WISHES TO RESPOND IN MORE FORMAL WAY. END SUMMARY:

2. EMBASSY DELIVERED NOTE CONTAINED REF A AS AMENDED BY REF B TO SECTION LEADER HANS JUERGEN EBERT, PLANNING DIVISION OF GDR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AFTERNOON OF SEPT. 10. FRG NOTE ON SAME SUBJECT WAS DELIVERED BY PERMANENT REPRESENTATION DEPUTY HEAD BRAEUTIGAM TO AMBASSADOR BOCK OF PLANNING DIVISION IN MFA ABOUT NOON ON SAME DAY. COORDINATION OF NOTE DELIVERY BY EMBASSY AND FRG REPRESENTATION WENT OFF ACCORDING TO AGREED PLAN.

3. ACCORDING TO FRG REPS, BOCK ACCEPTED FRG NOTE, SAYING HE WAS RECEIVING IT WITH "ONE EYE LAUGHING AND THE OTHER EYE CRYING". THE "LAUGHING EYE", REPRESENTED THE GDR'S APPRECIATION FOR THE FRG CARRYING OUT ITS OBLIGATIONS "STRICTLY" REGARDING ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS AS FORESEEN IN THE FINAL ACT OF HELSINKI. WITH REGARD TO THE "CRYING EYE", THE GDR WAS DISTURBED AND "APPREHENSIVE" ABOUT THE "NUMBER AND FREQUENCY" OF MILITARY EXERCISES WHICH TOOK PLACE IN WEST GERMANY CLOSE TO THE BORDERS OF THE GDR. BOCK STATED THAT THESE EXERCISES ALSO MADE OTHER WARSAW PACT MEMBERS UNEASY AND HE FELT OBLIGED TO REGISTER THIS FEELING. BRAEUTIGAM RESPONDED THAT THESE MANEUVERS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN WEST GERMANY FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, THAT THEY WERE DEFENSIVE IN NATURE AND WERE NOT DIRECTED AGAINST ANY COUNTRY, AND WERE NOT INTENDED AS A PROVOCATION. BRAEUTIGAM CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT MANEUVER NOTIFICATION IS RECIPROCAL AND THAT THE GDR ALSO HAS OBLIGATIONS IN THIS REGARD. BOCK THEN APPEARED TO BACK OFF A LITTLE, SAYING THAT HE REALIZED THAT THE NATO MANEUVERS HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR SOME TIME BEFORE HELSINKI AND THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE NEED FOR SUCH PLANNING. HE REITERATED, HOWEVER, THE CONCERN OF THE GDR GOVERNMENT ABOUT THEM. BRAEUTIGAM THEN STATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES MIGHT WISH TO RESPOND TO BOCK'S COMMENTS ABOUT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MANEUVERS IN DUE COURSE.

4. EMBOFF MET EBERT LATER THE SAME DAY. EBERT ACCEPTED THE US NOTE WITHOUT READING IT AND STATED THE GDR'S APPRECIATION FOR THE USG'S CARRYING OUT THE CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURE OF MANEUVER NOTIFICATION UNDER THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT. HE ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION THAT OTHER NATO MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE FRG, FRANCE

AND TURKEY, HAD ALSO INFORMED THE GDR ABOUT OTHER MANEUVERS. EBERT STATED THE GDR GOVERNMENT WAS TRYING TO WORK OUT WAYS AND MEANS OF GIVING SIMILAR NOTIFICATION. HE THEN LAUNCHED INTO A LONG MONOLOGUE ABOUT THE VALUE WHICH THE GDR PLACED ON IMPROVEMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND MORE FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS. HE STATED THAT THE DIVISION OF PLANNING STOOD READY TO MEET WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS WHEN WE HAD "A SPECIFIC SUBJECT TO DISCUSS". EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT, WHILE WE APPRECIATED THE DESIRABILITY OF BETTER CONTACTS OF A BILATERAL KIND BETWEEN THE US AND THE GDR, THE NOTE WHICH HAD JUST BEEN DELIVERED WAS IN THE CONTEXT OF NATO AND WAS NOT PRIMARILY A BILATERAL ACTION. EBERT TOOK THE POINT BUT STATED THAT WHAT HE HAD IN MIND WAS A FURTHER DEEPENING OF US-GDR RELATIONS AS DISCUSSED BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER AT HELSINKI.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY OFFICER FIRST TELEPHONED DR. KLABBASCH, DEPUTY HEAD OF THE GDR DELEGATION TO CSCE IN GENEVA, WITH THE INTENTION OF DELIVERING THE US NOTE TO HIM. KLABBASCH, HOWEVER, STATED HE WAS COMPLETELY BOOKED AND SUGGESTED THAT HIS DEPUTY, EBERT, RECEIVE THE NOTE. EBERT APPEARED TO BE SOMEWHAT NERVOUS AND UNPREPARED TO RESPOND TO THE NOTE. FRG REPS BELIEVE THAT BOCK'S COMMENTS WERE GIVEN "UNDER INSTRUCTIONS". COOPER

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